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THE CABINET.

The members of the Cabinet are the counsellors and advisors of the President, selected by him to aid him in the discharge of his executive duties. No President would select any man for such a high responsible and confidential position who, in his past life, had not furnished evidence of wisdom, integrity of character, business habits, and a peculiar aptitude to fulfill the duties of the office to which he is appointed; for his reputation is, in a great measure in the hands of his Cabinet, and the success of his administration depends much upon their wise counsel and advice, and skillful and earnest co-operation. No President possessed of common sense, common prudence, and ordinary regard for his own character, would appoint to his Cabinet other than the ablest and most trustworthy men in the country. After having thus selected them, a President gifted with ordinary moral firmness will not remove them at the dictation of uninformed idle clamor, which does not make distinct charges and specifications. When circumstances require the removal of old members of the Cabinet and the appointment of new ones, a President having any regard to his dignity of character, his reputation, or the success of his administration, will sooner resign his office than suffer himself to be dictated to in the appointment of successors. No equality is so essential to an executive ruler as moral firmness, and this is best exhibited in his selection and treatment of his Cabinet.

A Cabinet retained in office may justly claim a large share of credit for the success of the administration that appoints and retains it, and is amenable to censure for its misconduct and its failures. So far is this doctrine carried in England that it has become a constitutional maxim that the King can do no wrong.

The administration of President Davis has been so far, eminently successful, and this furnishes *prima facie* proof that his Cabinet has been wisely selected and properly retained in office. This success, in the absence of specific charges and accusations, accompanied by proofs, is sufficient answer to the war of abusive epithets that has been from the time to time, waged against most of the members of his Cabinet.

It is hard to reply to an argument of mere epithets, and yet these epithets, continually indulged in by the ignorant, the prejudiced, the malignant and the disloyal if not replied to, may gradually undermine public confidence, beget suspicion, prejudice and distrust, and enfeeble the action of the Administration by withdrawing from it a cheerful, hearty and zealous co-operation of a part of the community. This is the effect intended to be brought about by these busy and noisy enemies of the Administration. Its success would be the success of secession, of the war, of our cause and our country, and a refutation of forebodings of evil and prophecies of failure, so freely and continually indulged in by too many of the enemies of the Administration.

It is evidence of their caution, not of their regard for truth or character that they have not whispered the charge of corruption against a single member of the Administration, whilst the Northern press is full, and the Northern Congress daily rings, with such charges applied to Lincoln's Cabinet. Our Administration is able and efficient. Its success proves it. It is pure; for its bitterest enemies dare not deny it.

To descend to particulars: The Secretary of War holds next to the President in times of war the highest and most respon-

sible office. His appointment was hailed with warm approbation by all parties.—He was deemed the fittest man in the Confederacy for the station. He has rather exceeded than fallen short of public expectation. He has given renewed vigor to our arms. He occupies a station where great abilities have full opportunity for exercise and display—a position in which to win a great and lasting reputation.—He has availed himself of his opportunity, and, whilst serving his country with industry, devotedness and success, has achieved a reputation that will place him on the pages of history along side of Davis and Lee.

Not a missile of slander or detraction has as yet been directed at the accomplished gentleman and learned lawyer who fills the office of Attorney General. It might not be safe to assail him. Better for professional slanders not to assail too many reputations, but practice under the dictates of the moral maxim of Jonathan Wild, "A lie is too precious a thing to be told often." He who falsely assails everybody, injures no one, because he is believed by nobody.

The Postmaster General, for a short time, was a favorite mark for detraction. But they soon found they were vainly attempting to bite a file. His character was firm and as pure as thrice refined steel.—And his conscience, void of offense, imbued him with a moral firmness and serenity of temper that set at defiance all attempts to disturb his equanimity, to impair his distinguished urbanity, to interrupt his habitual industry, or to lessen his practical wisdom. He is admitted on all hands to be a modest and courteous gentleman and most excellent officer.

The whole burden of the objections to the Secretary of State seem to have dwindled down to the fact that he is a Jew, for all admit his distinguished abilities. In Europe, where they have Established State Churches and all religions are not equal in the eye of the law, Jews, nevertheless, hold, in every country, many of the highest offices of trust and honor.—The Secretary has had no opportunity to display his diplomatic talent; for all nations refuse, as yet, to negotiate with us. The time is at hand when his abilities will be needed, and we feel confident that when the occasion occurs, he will not be found wanting, but will ably sustain the dignity of his office, and his already acquired high reputation.

The Secretary of the Navy is too fat, it seems, to suit these gentlemen of the opposition's fastidious and hypocritical tastes. He is not fat, only *embonpoint*. Not so fat as the Secretary of State, nor half so fat as Bonaparte in the zenith of his glory. We wish he were; for it would be quite a luxury to look at a fat man in these famine times.

We are glad they do not prefer the charge of leanness against the President or Secretary of War; for had they done so, we could not have put in a word of defence.

Our Navy, considering its small force and few opportunities, has won equal distinction with our army. We have no ports in which to build and outfit a large navy. Mr. Mallory has been skillful, industrious and energetic in the discharge of the duties of his office. Three of his iron clads, within hearing of Richmond, hold the entire Yankee navy in check and in awe. The Merrimac achieved a victory equal to any in the annals of naval warfare. And the Florida and Alabama have terrified the whole Yankee mercantile marine, and almost driven their entire foreign trade into foreign bottoms. Our torpedoes have blown up more vessels than all the torpedoes in the world have hitherto done. Had not England prevented the coming out of port of the rams, which 'tis said, we had bargained for and bought, we would be to-day able to cope successfully with the whole Yankee navy.

The new Secretary of the Treasury is admitted on all hands to be a good appointment. He is a gentleman of well tested, practical ability, and will, no doubt do all that men can do to restore our currency to a healthy state. But he would need the touch of Midas to fulfill the over sanguine expectation of many. A Treas-

ury as deeply involved as ours, is almost sure to be the grave of reputation. Moderate success is all we can hope for, and all we should expect or require at the hands of the new Secretary.

Rich. Sentinel.

FROM HOKE'S BRIGADE.

A correspondent of the Raleigh Confederate writing under date of July 27th says that on Saturday, July 16th their army left its encampment near Leasburg, and took the road for Winchester by way of Snicker's gap in the Blue Ridge. About 1 o'clock, when we had passed the village of Purcellsville, our baggage train was attacked by the enemies cavalry. They cut out about 70 wagons and ambulances, and were making off with them, when Brig. Gen. Lewis, at the head of our brigade, reached the ground and changed the aspect of affairs in double-quick time. The enemy had to abandon many of the wagons and fly for safety, leaving behind him about 15 of his troopers killed and wounded on the field. We also captured from him 1 piece of artillery. Our army crossed the Blue Ridge and took position near Berryville in order to rest from its toilsome marches. On Sunday afternoon and Monday, it was apparent from the continual firing of artillery that the enemy were following us through Snicker's gap in force—our cavalry which had been covering our rear disputing their advance. This gap is a position easily flanked. Our cavalry fell back in the evening. In the afternoon of Monday the 18th, the enemy advanced in force and threw a large body of his troops across the Shenandoah where the Turnpike crosses. Our troops were ready to receive them. The work of sharpshooting was spirited and severe. The enemy had been enabled to form his line of battle on the north bank of the river immediately upon and under cover of the bank. This line was charged by Rhodes' and a part of Gordon's divisions. The yankee line was broken, and gave way through its entire length; the fugitives plunged into the river which is here about 150 yards in width, and sought safety in this dangerous mode of retreat. Our riflemen now had a fair chance, and gave ample testimony of their competency in such bloody work. Never since the sound of the rifle was first heard in this beautiful valley have the "sea green" waters of the Shenandoah been so reddened with human gore as on this afternoon. The water was literally covered with the fallen foe. The battle is soon over and the victory is ours. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is estimated at 1,000. But, oh! what a price is paid for it! 300 are said to be killed and wounded on our side. Cols Owens and Wood, both of North Carolina are reported mortally wounded, and how sad did I feel in the morning upon finding my esteemed young friend Lieut. Bivens, of Enfield, who had lost a leg in the action. But such is the fate of war.

On Tuesday the 19th, it became apparent that the enemy were threatening our position from different points, and on Wednesday morning the 20th, our army showed a disposition to fall back! The sick and wounded were sent off from Winchester to the hospitals at Mt. Jackson and Staunton. This morning Maj. Gen. Ramseur took position with his division on the turnpike leading from Winchester to Martinsburg, and about two miles from the former place, as the enemy were understood to be advancing from that direction. In the afternoon he advanced his column down the road and soon found himself in the presence of the enemy in heavy force. It is proper for me here to say but little lest I should say too much, and do some one injustice, for many have been criticizing this affair. Our division soon fell under an enfilading fire, right and left being outflanked, fell into confusion and retired in disorder. Some of the critics argue that the prime cause of the stampede was the giving way of Vaughn's cavalry on the left which rushed back through the ranks of the 57th N. C. T., and threw them into confusion. Be it as it may, it was a sad affair. Our loss in killed, wounded and missing is generally set down at 850 to 400. Brig. Gen. Lewis and his aid Lieut. Macos, and Maj. Craig

of the 57th N. C. T., all of Hoke's brigade were wounded. We lost four pieces of artillery.

Our army subsequently fell back to Strasburg, twenty miles on the turnpike towards Staunton. But Gen. Early can certainly do two things—march and fight. On Sunday morning last he moved forward again, and in the afternoon attacked and defeated the enemy at Kearnsstown, three miles west of Winchester, and putting the enemy to a complete rout, pressed them several miles towards the Potomac, capturing a large amount of prisoners. By this defeat I am of the opinion that the enemy are entirely driven back to the other side of the Potomac, and we shall be able to secure the benefit of the splendid crop of wheat raised in this rich valley. But don't be surprised if you hear of us soon in Pennsylvania.

DESTRUCTION OF CHAMBERSBURG BY OUR TROOPS.

The telegraph brought us the not unexpected intelligence, that a force of Confederate cavalry had invaded Pennsylvania and had burned nearly the whole of Chambersburg. Chambersburg was a flourishing borough, capital of Franklin county, situated on the Conococheague creek, at the junction of the Cumberland Valley railroad with the Franklin railroad, 45 miles S. W. of Harrisburg, and 150 miles W. of Philadelphia. It is connected by good turnpike roads with Baltimore, Pittsburg and Philadelphia, Harrisburg, &c. The dwellings were mostly built of brick or stone. It had in 1860, a fine Courthouse, a bank, a large male academy, a female seminary, eight churches and five newspaper offices. It is surrounded by a highly cultivated and populous country. It had manufacturers of cotton, wool, flour, paper and iron, and its population in 1860 was about 5,000.

From the municipal authorities, it seems by the Yankee press, a demand had been made for half a million of dollars, but this not being forthcoming our boys *Hunterized* the place and it is now in ashes.—This is but the beginning. We expected daily to hear from Early's boys again, and now we expect to hear, amid the shouts of triumph, the crackling flames making merry over the sufferings of the Yankee race; while the dense columns of smoke shall tell of our whereabouts, and the heaps of ashes and of ruins mark the track of our men. We believe the Almighty will look approvingly upon these acts of retribution for the foes inhuman and barbarous conduct towards us. We have cried "mercy" long enough; now let our watchword be *eyes for an eye, teeth for a tooth.*—*State Journal.*

PACIFIC STATES.

The State of California, although it has politically fallen into the hands of the Republicans, shows no disposition to sustain the war upon the South by sending men or money. No volunteers have been raised there among the *bona fide* citizens of the State, and we question if any troops have been there raised by draft.

So far as the present struggle is concerned, the Pacific States seem determined to be pacific in more ways than one, and it is likely enough that they will soon reach a point at which they themselves will seek independence of the Washington government than one at which they will consent to give blood or treasure to prevent the South from maintaining her independence. What is said of California, will apply to Oregon and Washington. All these communities are so far separated from the scenes of strife on this side of the continent, that they wish to keep wholly out of the vortex.

Wil. Journal.

From Western North Carolina.—Maj. Charles M. Roberts, with a portion of the 14th Battalion, attacked a camp of the enemy near the Tennessee line, one day last week; killing seven, capturing six and bringing off twenty horses. Maj. Roberts did not lose a man killed or wounded. The prisoners have arrived here.—*Asheville News.*